

NEWS RELEASE



**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Missouri**

325 Broadway Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 (573) 334-3736

*For Further Information, Call:
Assistant U. S. Attorney Keith D. Sorrell*

CAPE GIRARDEAU MAN SENTENCED TO 57 MONTHS FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

January 15, 2008

A Cape Girardeau, Missouri man was sentenced today on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

NATHANIEL CLAY SMITH, age 21, was sentenced to 57 months on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge Henry E. Autrey.

On March 29, 2007, Smith was stopped in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, and arrested in connection with another offense. At the time of his arrest, Smith was in possession of a Hi-Point, 9mm caliber pistol. Smith had used this pistol in connection with another felony offense, resulting in another state conviction for Second Degree Assault on June 27, 2007. Due to Smith's felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms.

Hanaway praised the Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Department, the Cape Girardeau Police Department, and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.